April 3, 1959

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE **SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS**

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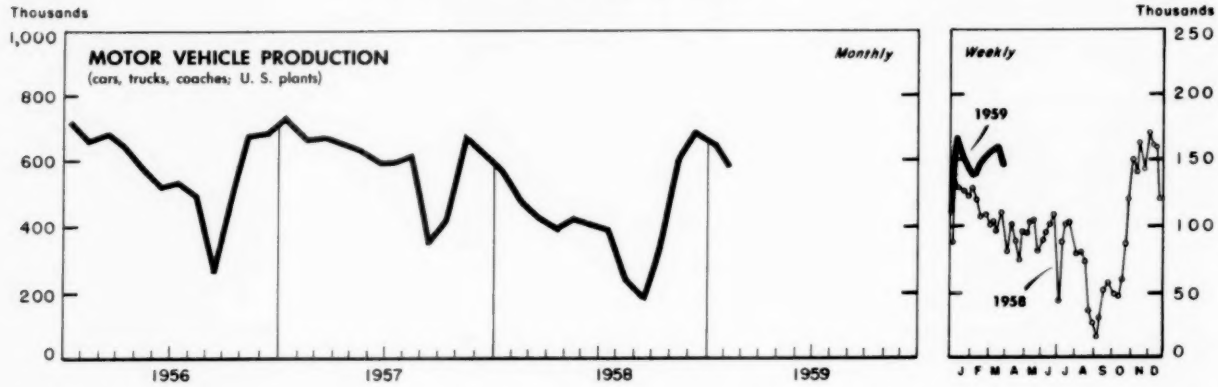
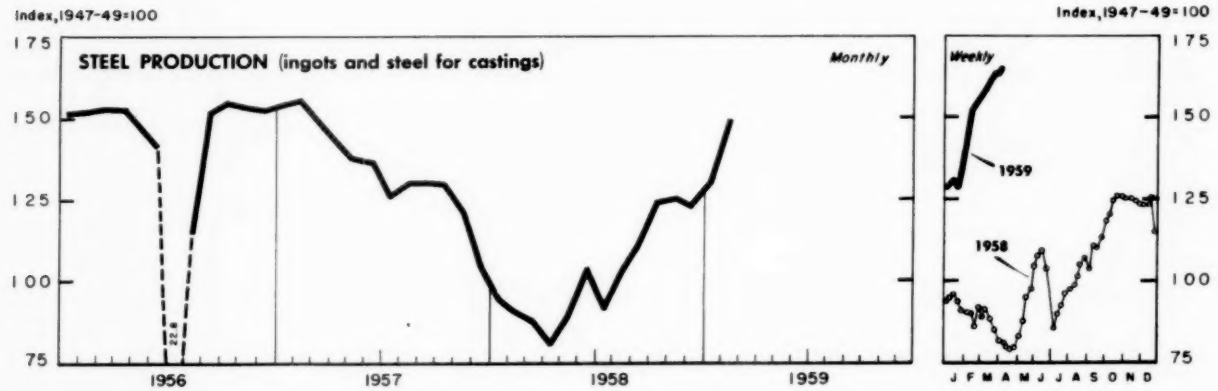
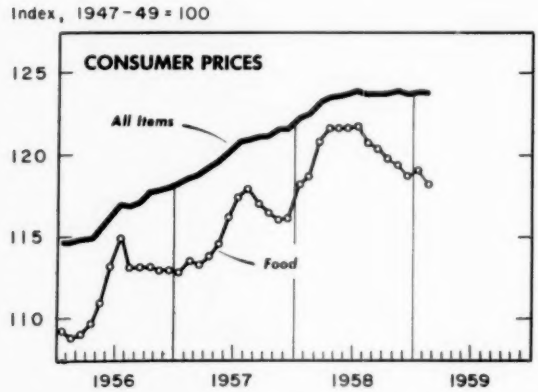
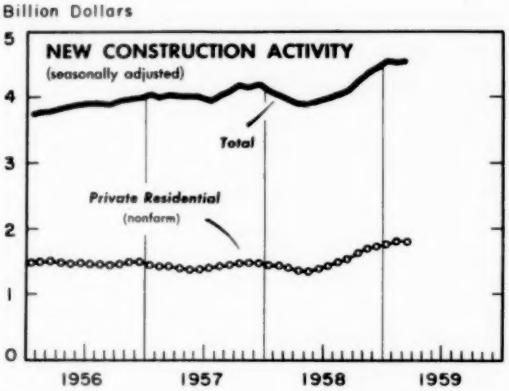
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS









WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1958		1959			
	Mar. 22	Mar. 29	Mar. 7	Mar. 14	Mar. 21	Mar. 28
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*119.7	.....	119.3	119.4	119.3
Farm products.....do....	.....	*100.5	.....	90.5	90.8	90.3
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*110.7	.....	107.2	107.2	107.0
All other.....do....	.....	*125.7	.....	127.7	127.8	127.8
22 commodities 2/.....do....	85.5	85.5	84.3	85.5	86.2	86.8
Department store sales.....do....	117	122	118	124	137	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	3,511	3,508	**2,742	**2,656	.....	.....
State and UCFE programs.....do....	3,279	3,277	2,244	2,165	.....	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	357	327	288	311	292	297
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	30,592	30,524	31,126	31,215	31,287	31,231
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/.....do....	24,638	24,742	26,892	26,976	27,048	27,123
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,930	18,725	18,375	18,421	18,439	18,558
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	598	688	352	510	364	431
Reporting member banks (of F.R.System) in leading cities: 4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	55,243	54,507	56,206	57,665	57,019	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	26,424	26,641	28,313	28,365	28,367	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	90,474	89,813	93,790	94,248	94,728	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	28,255	28,108	30,627	30,608	30,296	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)....do....	30,961	30,947	30,301	30,671	31,215	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,710	8,734	9,743	9,766	9,788	.....
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	4.04	4.05	4.40	4.40	4.41	4.41
Stock prices, 500 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/...1941-43=10..	42.09	42.30	56.35	56.35	56.39	55.88
Industrials, 425 stocks.....do....	44.95	45.18	60.06	60.02	60.03	59.48
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,266	1,242	1,286	1,271	1,283	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	11,756	11,645	12,945	12,996	12,900	.....
Motor vehicles (cars, trucks, coaches).....number..	96,695	111,806	156,981	159,137	161,289	145,211
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,263	6,264	7,213	7,155	7,203	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	1,417	1,366	2,556	2,604	2,631	2,631
Percent of capacity.....	#52.5	#50.6	90.3	92.0	92.9	92.9
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	533	532	596	595	603	.....
Miscellaneous .....do....	273	276	324	325	329	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning March 30, 1959: Production, 2,653 thous. short tons; operating rate, 93.7 percent. *Monthly index for March 1958. **Includes persons reported under temporary programs (TUC) and under Ex-Servicemen's Unemployment Compensation Act of 1958 (UCX). #Based on January 1, 1958, annual capacity (140,742,570 tons); not comparable with 1959 rates which are based on January 1, 1959, annual capacity (147,633,670 tons).

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1958				1959	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Business incorporations:						
New incorporations (48 states).....number..	13,080	10,466	12,090	16,458	r18,765	15,758
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index:						
All items.....1947-49=100..	122.3	122.5	123.9	123.7	123.8	*123.7
Apparel.....do....	106.9	106.8	107.7	107.5	106.7	106.7
Food.....do....	118.2	118.7	119.4	118.7	119.0	118.2
Dairy products.....do....	114.6	114.5	114.5	114.3	114.1	114.0
Fruits and vegetables.....do....	121.9	124.4	121.1	120.1	121.7	121.2
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....	110.2	112.0	113.5	113.0	113.8	112.6
Housing.....do....	127.1	127.3	128.0	128.2	128.2	128.5
Gas and electricity.....do....	115.7	115.9	118.1	118.2	118.2	118.5
Housefurnishings.....do....	104.2	104.9	103.5	103.6	103.2	103.8
Rent.....do....	136.8	137.0	138.4	138.7	138.8	139.0
Medical care.....do....	141.7	141.9	147.0	147.3	147.6	148.6
Personal care.....do....	127.8	128.0	129.1	129.0	129.4	129.8
Reading and recreation.....do....	116.6	116.6	117.0	116.9	117.0	117.1
Transportation.....do....	138.7	138.5	144.5	144.3	144.1	144.3
Private.....do....	128.4	127.9	133.6	133.3	133.1	133.3
Public.....do....	182.4	185.4	191.1	191.8	191.8	191.8
Other goods and services.....do....	127.0	127.0	127.3	127.3	127.3	127.4
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by--						
Wholesale prices.....do....	84.1	84.0	83.9	83.9	83.7	**83.7
Consumer prices.....do....	81.8	81.6	80.7	80.8	80.8	**80.8
FINANCE						
Life insurance (Institute of Life Insurance):						
Assets, all U. S. life insurance companies.....mil. of dol..	101,961	102,310	106,540	107,419	108,145	.....
Bonds (book value), domestic and foreign.....do....	51,885	52,022	54,172	54,302	54,857	.....
U. S. Government.....do....	7,199	7,214	7,344	7,205	7,485	.....
State, county, municipal (U. S.).....do....	2,428	2,438	2,672	2,685	2,744	.....
Public utility (U. S.).....do....	14,706	14,728	15,183	15,247	15,306	.....
Railroad (U. S.).....do....	3,852	3,852	3,828	3,830	3,817	.....
Industrial and miscellaneous (U. S.).....do....	20,802	20,877	22,043	22,214	22,348	.....

r/ Revised. * Index based on 1935-39=100 is 206.8. ** Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by--wholesale prices, 43.8; consumer prices, 48.4.

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ITEM	1958 January	1958 February	1958 November	1958 December	1959 January	1959 February
FINANCE - Continued						
Life insurance (Institute of Life Insurance) - Continued						
Assets, all U. S. life insurance companies - Continued						
Stocks (book value), domestic and foreign....mil. of dol..	3,013	3,023	3,198	3,359	3,365	.....
Preferred (U. S.)....do....	1,623	1,625	1,651	1,646	1,640	.....
Common (U. S.)....do....	1,371	1,378	1,516	1,678	1,689	.....
Mortgage loans....do....	35,462	35,587	36,794	37,097	37,211	.....
Nonfarm....do....	32,873	32,990	34,093	34,388	34,510	.....
Real estate....do....	3,143	3,168	3,415	3,349	3,393	.....
Policy loans and premium notes....do....	3,905	3,938	4,183	4,204	4,225	.....
Cash....do....	1,201	1,150	1,242	1,365	1,282	.....
Other assets....do....	3,352	3,422	3,536	3,743	3,812	.....
Payments to policyholders and beneficiaries, estimated total....mil. of dol..	652.5	567.9	536.6	746.2	665.4	.....
Death benefits....do....	258.1	239.7	214.8	264.5	267.8	.....
Matured endowments....do....	67.7	58.2	65.4	88.8	65.9	.....
Disability payments....do....	11.4	9.8	9.2	10.0	11.4	.....
Annuity payments....do....	67.1	48.7	46.5	47.2	67.5	.....
Surrender values....do....	119.3	111.2	103.7	135.8	118.7	.....
Policy dividends....do....	128.9	100.3	97.0	199.9	134.1	.....
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural)....thous. of lb..	47,517	39,710	r57,311	49,688	58,614	.....
Acetic anhydride....do....	80,808	78,233	79,908	92,145	90,525	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin)....do....	2,144	1,778	1,745	1,530	1,890	.....
Creosote oil....thous. of gal..	8,506	7,339	8,620	9,081	6,917	.....
DDT....thous. of lb..	10,451	10,793	12,387	13,041	12,932	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%)....do....	6,281	5,314	9,121	7,189	6,821	.....
Ethylene glycol....do....	106,806	94,875	85,493	90,277	97,210	.....
Formaldehyde (37% HCHO)....do....	111,467	104,663	135,867	128,716	137,067	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%)....thous. of gal..	165	167	113	142	158	.....
Synthetic (100%)....do....	18,197	16,965	21,295	22,179	22,832	.....
Phthalic anhydride....thous. of lb..	25,436	22,638	28,844	29,571	29,018	.....
Vegetable oils, oilseeds, and byproducts:						
Copra:						
Consumption....short tons..	31,469	20,334	23,593	23,724	27,400	22,500
Stocks....do....	16,721	18,122	11,170	9,071	10,400	4,400
Coconut or copra oil:						
Production, crude....thous. of lb..	40,167	25,146	30,475	30,446	35,100	28,900
Cottonseed:						
Receipts at mills....thous. of short tons..	273	81	1,112	542	147	87
Consumption (crush)....do....	522	407	599	563	570	468
Stocks at mills, end of month....do....	1,367	1,042	1,951	1,930	1,507	1,126
Cottonseed cake and meal:						
Production....short tons..	238,031	186,389	283,913	267,204	262,100	214,200
Stocks....do....	241,455	224,694	106,724	78,464	79,600	103,800
Cottonseed oil:						
Production, crude....thous. of lb..	174,440	140,101	205,160	189,981	195,800	162,200
Flaxseed:						
Oilmills: Consumption....thous. of bu..	1,854	1,942	2,245	2,164	2,279	1,664
Stocks....do....	4,719	4,155	5,266	3,879	2,832	2,164
Linseed oil, raw:						
Production....thous. of lb..	35,847	37,788	45,472	43,738	45,500	33,400
Soybeans:						
Consumption....thous. of bu..	31,091	27,104	33,530	34,443	36,687	33,967
Stocks, end of month....do....	70,010	62,897	107,704	98,610	94,310	86,450
Soybean oil:						
Production, crude....thous. of lb..	328,321	288,663	351,240	359,893	385,500	355,300
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes....thous. of lb..	3,564	3,283	#3,475	#4,238	#4,580	.....
Molding and extrusion materials....do....	6,138	6,677	#8,542	#8,432	#8,810	.....
Other cellulose plastics....do....	874	671	#	#	#	.....
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes....do....	348	290	227	161	294	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins....do....	38,813	32,500	43,786	44,295	43,028	.....
Polystyrene....do....	41,701	42,216	62,560	61,003	63,558	.....
Urea and melamine resins....do....	25,630	21,871	27,692	26,503	28,182	.....
Vinyl resins....do....	68,977	58,327	85,649	81,563	83,298	.....
Alkyd resins....do....	27,927	25,805	26,262	26,901	28,747	.....
Rosin modifications....do....	10,340	8,643	10,382	10,145	10,050	.....
Polyester resins....do....	7,533	7,910	9,246	10,842	10,737	.....
Polyethylene resins....do....	69,522	61,801	78,666	83,692	87,329	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Pig iron, prod. (excl. ferroalloys).....thous. of short tons..	4,785	4,016	5,907	6,025	6,212	6,147
Fabricated structural steel:						
Orders, new (net)....do....	162	186	243	197	236	294
Shipments....do....	317	283	271	267	224	216
Backlog, end of month....do....	2,778	2,727	1,839	1,809	1,794	1,864
Furnaces, industrial, new orders, net:						
Electric processing....thous. of dol..	701	1,420	777	1,578	891	919
Fuel-fired (except for hot rolling steel)....do....	1,593	717	3,874	1,887	2,178	1,921

r/ Revised. # Effective May 1958, data for "other cellulose plastics" are combined with sheets, etc. and molding and extrusion materials.

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ITEM	1958				1959	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
METALS AND MANUFACTURES - Continued						
Industrial trucks (electric), shipments:						
Hand (motorized)....number..	515	471	426	429	330	.....
Rider-type....do....	383	370	238	385	243	.....
Industrial trucks and tractors (gasoline-powered), shipments....do....	1,305	1,264	1,407	1,501	1,247	.....
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Railway equipment, American Railway Car Institute:						
Freight cars:						
Shipments, total....number..	7,371	5,511	2,256	2,763	1,972	2,506
Equipment manufacturers, total....do....	4,988	3,721	1,319	1,584	1,014	1,677
Railroad and private-line shops, domestic....do....	2,383	1,790	937	1,179	958	829
New orders, total....do....	401	287	6,525	3,706	4,328	1,925
Equipment manufacturers, total....do....	375	208	4,628	2,004	1,390	1,414
Railroad and private-line shops, domestic....do....	26	79	1,897	1,702	2,938	511
Unfilled orders, end of month....do....	49,370	44,138	28,167	27,659	29,822	29,240
Equipment manufacturers, total....do....	19,797	16,276	7,996	8,467	8,800	8,536
Railroad and private-line shops, domestic....do....	29,573	27,862	20,171	19,192	21,022	20,704

	1958			1959		
	February	March	December	January	February	March
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
New construction (unadjusted), total....mil. of dol..	3,106	3,342	4,024	r3,660	3,475	3,792
Private, total....do....	2,270	2,410	2,887	r2,610	2,500	2,698
Residential (nonfarm)....do....	1,078	1,177	1,605	1,448	1,369	1,530
New dwelling units....do....	810	890	1,260	1,150	1,070	1,215
Additions and alterations....do....	219	239	288	243	245	261
Nonresidential buildings, total 1/....do....	705	689	722	660	638	628
Industrial....do....	252	235	176	173	167	161
Commercial....do....	258	262	305	268	262	265
Farm construction....do....	104	113	100	98	101	111
Public utilities....do....	372	419	444	r390	380	416
Public, total....do....	836	932	1,137	1,056	975	1,094
Nonresidential buildings....do....	312	350	361	356	322	366
Military facilities....do....	73	77	110	105	98	105
Highway....do....	220	235	350	285	265	295
New construction (seasonally adjusted), total....do....	4,004	3,966	4,473	r4,539	4,537	4,544
Private, total....do....	2,796	2,757	3,049	r3,095	3,120	3,106
Residential (nonfarm)....do....	1,435	1,397	1,715	1,787	1,817	1,811
Nonresidential buildings, total 1/....do....	748	742	716	688	684	682
Industrial....do....	252	240	173	170	167	164
Commercial....do....	281	288	305	288	287	293
Farm construction....do....	134	133	134	130	129	130
Public utility....do....	466	471	467	r475	476	468
Public, total....do....	1,208	1,209	1,424	1,444	1,417	1,438
Nonresidential buildings....do....	360	374	408	399	373	391
Military facilities....do....	96	95	125	130	129	130
Highway....do....	458	443	538	559	552	557

r/ Revised. 1/ Except farm and public utility.

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